

A Busy Six Months:

The GOP-led Legislature Has Accomplished a Great Deal Since January

Among other things, the Legislature and Governor Walker have:

Passed a state budget (*2011 Act 32*) on time, without tax increases, that leaves Wisconsin in the black for the first time in over a decade:

- Turned a \$3 billion deficit into a \$300 million surplus
- Instituted the first permanent property tax cap in our state's history
- Cut bonding (state borrowing) by nearly 20 percent
- Cut more than 1,000 government jobs, including 735 long-term vacancies
- Enacted sweeping business tax reforms that will save Wisconsin's job creators over \$130 million a year when fully implemented.

Results:

- In the first 6 months of 2011, Wisconsin showed job growth more than twice the national rate
- 88% of Wisconsin businesses say the state is on the right track, up from 10% a year ago
- 53% of businesses of all sizes predict they will add jobs and increase wages in the next 12 months¹

The Budget Repair Bill (*2011 Act 10*) gave schools and other local governments the tools to control their budgets without sacrificing services:

- MacIver Institute: Wisconsin Schools Already In Line to Save Hundreds of Millions of Dollars²;
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: Most state school districts dodge layoffs, cuts – some districts hiring new teachers for the upcoming academic year³.

Other Legislative Successes So Far:

- Protected our votes by requiring a picture I.D. at the polls (*2011 Act 23*)
- Became the 49th U.S. state to recognize its citizens' Second Amendment rights to carry concealed weapons (*2011 Act 35*)
- Created a commission on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse that has already reported a potential \$260 million in savings (*Executive Order*)
- Limited manufacturer liability only to those products they actually produced (*2011 Act 2*)
- Created a state tax credit for Health Savings Accounts (*2011 Act 1*)
- Passed legislation requiring a 2/3 supermajority vote to raise income or sales tax rates unless a statewide referendum supports the increases (*2011 Act 9*)
- Repealed higher auto insurance requirements enacted in the 2009 budget (*2011 Act 14*)
- Expanded the prohibition against tax money being used to subsidize abortion (*2011 Act 32*)
- Repealed in-state tuition for illegal immigrants (*2011 Act 32*)
- Repealed a mandate on local law enforcement to collect racial data during traffic stops (*2011 Act 29*)
- Expanded School Choice to Racine and potentially Green Bay (*2011 Act 32*)
- Required a successful drug test in order to receive unemployment benefits 2011 (*2011 Act 32*)
- Wisconsin paid off its \$60 million debt owed to Minnesota under the former tax reciprocity agreement between the states (*2011 Act 32*)
- Wisconsin paid back the \$200 million from Gov. Doyle's unconstitutional raid of the Patients Compensation Fund (*2011 Act 32*)

Looking forward to the next six months! Here are some of the issues I will be working on:

- **Welfare Reform**
- **Reining in divisive Affirmative Action programs**
- **Giving Parents More Options in Education**
- **Growing jobs by reining in excessive regulation**
- **Tort reform**
- **Restoring Parents' Rights**

Footnotes:

¹ <http://www.jsonline.com/business/123511849.html>

² <http://maciverinstitute.com/2011/07/wisconsin-schools-already-in-line-to-save-hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars-through-newly-negotiated-teacher-contracts/>

³ <http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/125696138.html>